

The Case for Athletic Excellence at the United States Naval Academy

The Naval Academy mission places an extraordinary emphasis on physical development that is uncommon in most present-day undergraduate programs. That emphasis comes from a deeply held belief that the attributes of successful leaders are developed as much on the playing field as in the classroom. Athletic competition instills mental toughness, competitive and team spirit, aggressiveness in confrontation, the will to win and the determination to fight on, regardless of the odds.

Physical readiness and teamwork are best forged through spirited athletic competition and demanding physical training. A consistent commitment to physical fitness and teamwork requires modern facilities, superior equipment, first-rate coaching and outstanding support systems. To achieve this, the Naval Academy Athletic Association depends on private funding strategically directed to provide the world-class facilities, equipment, and coaching necessary to attract, retain and develop the finest student-athletes in the nation.



While appropriated dollars adequately fund core requirements of the Naval Academy, there are not sufficient dollars to fund the facility and equipment upgrades necessary to keep pace with the growth and development of one of the nation's most comprehensive athletic programs. Continued private support is critical in meeting the ever-increasing demands of the Naval Academy's 31 varsity, 17 club and numerous intramural programs and maintaining the Naval Academy's stature as one of the pre-eminent physical mission programs in the country.



intramural programs.

In order to ensure the continued and undiminished support of athletic excellence at the Naval Academy, additional private resources are necessary. While other institutions devote unprecedented resources to varsity athletic programs, no other institution the size of the Naval Academy supports the number of athletic programs nor makes the commitment to athletic excellence across the entire physical mission spectrum. Your private gift support is essential to achieving the *margin of excellence* within the Naval Academy's physical mission. With the support of the **Athletic Excellence Fund**, the Academy will be well-positioned to continue its successful intercollegiate, club and

To help address this challenge, the Class of 1974 intends to raise \$120,000 to support athletic excellence at the Academy. Please help us meet that goal.